

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 150954Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8529

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3155

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: F-5E DELIVERY TO ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 062061

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE EXACT LANGUAGE OF PARAS TWO, THREE, FOUR AND FIVE OF REFTEL THIS MORNING. KIFLE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT FROM CHARGE MEKBIB IN WASHINGTON (STATE 062090) BUT TOOK THE PRESENTATION CALMLY.

2. KIFLE REQUESTED RECAPITULATION OF MARCH 9 CONVERSATION REFERRED TO IN FIRST PARAGRAPH OF DEMARCHE. DCM, WHO HAD MADE THAT PRESENTATION TO ANOTHER MOFA OFFICIAL, REVIEWED STATEMENT INDICATING PROBABLE EARLY RELEASE BY PLF OF TWO CAPTIVES. KIFLE ASKED ABOUT THIRD CAPTIVE AND WHETHER USG HAD INDICATION OF HIS EARLY RELEASE. AMB REPLIED THERE IS NO SPECIFIC INFO BUT FACT THAT ELF HAD EARLIER RELEASED TWO OTHER CAPTIVES MADE IT SEEM LIKELY THE THIRD WOULD BE FREED ALSO.

3. KIFLE SAID THAT IF EPMG HAD RECEIVED AN INTIMATION EARLIER, PERHAPS THREE WEEKS AGO, OF THE DELAY AND REASON FOR IT, IT WOULD HAVE AVOIDED ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. HE HOPED THE CURRENT DELAY WOULD NOT LEAD TO ANY
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CONSIDERABLE CHANGE OF SCHEDULE IN DELIVERY BECAUSE HE

FELT THIS COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT
TWO WEEKS DELAY COULD BE UNDERSTOOD HERE.

4. KIFLE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT DELAY AND EXPLANATION
THEREFORE WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. AMB SAID USG
HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING IT DO SO.

5. AMB SAID CHMAAG WOULD BE CONVEYING SAME STATEMENT TO
DEFMIN TODAY.
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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